ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND HIS ADMINISTRATION.

THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF HIS Acts Vindicated!

WITH A

REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION

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There are periods in the history of nations, as well as of individuals, that are the turning point of their destinies.

Periods, when events long germinating, culminate with the rapidity of thought, bearing in their train an avalanche of woe, or heralding prophetic gleams of a hopeful future.

We are now at the crisis of our destiny, and the nation is struggling in the whirlpool of events, in which we must either sink into an abyss of infamy, or emerge purified and regenerated as a people.

For over sixty years the theory of self-government by the people has been a problem, whose solution has been watched with jealous solicitation by the dynasties of Europe—Freedom during the interim steadily, but surely, progressing with gigantic strides.

To a casual observer, the country for years has seemed prosperous; but underlying this was the accursed plague-spot of *human slavery*, which, since the organization of the Government, has slowly disseminated its virus through the "body-politic," and spread abroad its corrupting influences through the secret machinations of its insidious agents for the retention of power, but the "handwriting on the wall," prognosticating its downfall, pointed to revolution as a last resort to retain its ascendancy.

To this, and no other cause, are we indebted for the rebellion now threatening the national existence, and the shallow pretext of Mr. Lincoln's election as a "*casus belli*," by the southern leaders, is most lame and impotent. Of the immediate events preceding the advent of the present Administration, the country is too well informed to need a recapitulation here.

Of the acts of Mr. Lincoln, their constitutionality, and what the present Administration has done since its induction into power, we propose to treat.

Assuming the reins of Government in the darkest days of the Republic, when the streets of the Capital swarmed with armed traitors, the Army under command of a traitor in Texas, and the Navy scattered to the four quarters of the globe, the prospective future of the nation looked gloomy and uncertain.

Did Mr. Lincoln falter in the least, or fail to fulfill the high trust reposed in him by the people? Let history answer!

Exhausting every means of reconciliation consistent with national honor and integrity, (which were indignantly spurned by the rebels,) he accepted the gage of battle, and issued a call for 75,000 men for three months, which was promptly responded to, and the quota at once raised, armed, and equipped.

This act was denounced by northern traitors, and rebel sympathizers, as unconstitutional, tyrannical, &c. No loyal man, or patriot, however, questioned its legality, which is sanctioned by the Constitution, in Article first, Section eight; which "*provides for calling forth the militia to suppress insurrection, and repel invasion,*" *&c.*

The rebellion increasing in magnitude, and the ranks of our armies becoming depleted by losses from battles and disease, it was deemed necessary to draft to fill them up.

And here, again, traitors at home prated of unconstitutionality, when in fact a law of Congress empowered the President *to order* a draft, providing sufficient men were not raised by volunteering, the Constitution especially providing for Congress "*to raise and support armies.*"

And, again, in arming the negroes, the President was denounced by traitors North and South, as violating the Constitution. And yet this was not done until Congress had enacted a law for this very purpose. How then in carrying out the letter of the law was the Constitution violated?

The policy of arming them was not decided upon until the necessities of war made it clearly manifest that it was most essential to our success to deprive the rebels of this potent element of strength, for while all able-bodied whites in the Confederacy were pressed into the military service, the negroes were used for agricultural labor, and those not so employed were placed on the fortifications, thereby husbanding their military strength for the emergencies of the field.

The suspension of the writ of Habeas Corpus, (a measure rendered necessary for the general safety by the exigencies then arising,) raised a general cry of opposition among the malcontents, as another unpardonable violation of law, and usurpation of power.

In reference to this the Constitution says, in Article 1, Section 9: "*The privilege of the writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended* UNLESS in case of REBELLION OR INVASION the public safety may require it."

The constitutional right is here clearly established beyond cavil, and so plain that none but a fool need err therein.

The policy of emancipation, as a powerful auxiliary in weakening the strength of the enemy, was long under consideration by Mr. Lincoln and the Cabinet, and only delayed, from diversity of opinion, as to the *time* when it would be most potent in its advent.

This, when adopted, was a vital blow to the slave power, and touched to the quick all rebeldom, and the verdict among all loyal men and patriots was universal in its favor. Its effectiveness, and favorable results to the Union cause, are well-known to every intelligent reader and observer.

In nearly all old countries the punishment of *Treason* is death, and confiscation of the estates of those in arms against the Government.

There being no existing law to meet the case, Congress passed a Confiscation Act, providing a certain time for rebels to lay down their arms; or, failing in that, to have their property confiscated, including their slaves. This, as other acts of the Administration, met with severe denunciation by rebel sympathizers; yet the legality of any act authorized by Congress is beyond question.

The open and defiant treason of Vallandigham, and others entertaining similar sentiments, rendered their arrest essential as well to the public interest, as sustaining intact the authority of the Federal Government.

These advocates of anarchy and disloyalty were as much enemies to the State as our foes in the field, only that the acts of the former were covertly performed under specious pretexts—stabbing the Government in the dark.

The issue of the first battle of Bull Run demonstrated but too forcibly to the Administration the necessity of a change in the organization and discipline of the Army.

In the military district, of which Western Virginia formed a part, partial successes had crowned our arms. McClellan was in command of this district, and under him was Rosecrans, to whom all the credit of success rightfully belonged; but McClellan, in his official dispatches, arrogating to himself the

laurels belonging to another, the Government was a victim to the deception, and called him to the chief command of our armies; believing that in his ability and military genius the country would have cause for congratulation.

Upon his assumption of command every facility was afforded by the Administration to enable him to carry out his plans on the scale of magnitude he proposed, until an army of 200,000 men was raised, organized, and fully equipped. How did he carry out the high expectations the country had formed of his military talent?

Was there ever a commanding officer to whom more leniency was shown for his shortcomings than he?

In reference to his ability as a commander, the following facts have been asserted by those who are willing to testify to the same under oath.

1. He has never, in any battle, *been under fire.*

2. He has never in *any* battle, where he had control, gained a permanent advantage over the enemy.

3. He wrote just previous to the "change of base" to James river, an order "*for the baggage and munitions of war of the Army to be all gathered together and burnt, and every man to save himself as best he might,*" and was only prevented from issuing it by the urgent remonstrances of his officers.

4. He stated upon going on board the Galena, that he should be obliged "*to surrender the Army*" before morning, which was only saved by the superior generalship of his officers in defeating the enemy by their individual efforts.

It is not our design here to discuss, at length, his merits and failures, or criticise his military talent. They can be more fully ascertained by a careful perusal of the "Conduct of the War," or "Ball's Bluff to Antietam," and "McClellan's Military Career Reviewed and Exposed."

From a fair and impartial trial of more than a year, in which his ability and military strategy had full scope, resulting in continued disaster, and not even *one* decisive *victory*, the patience of the country became exhausted, and the President and Cabinet decided on his removal.

As a statesman, the people have yet to learn the extent of his intellectual ability, in which, if his present reticence on political topics continues, the country will be hardly more enlightened than now by the 8th of November.

Having briefly reviewed the acts of McClellan, and the circumstances by which the Government called him on the stage as a prominent actor in the bloody struggle now pending, we purpose to review other acts of the Administration, and leave to the people to judge of their general results thus far, as affecting the great issues forced upon us by this unnatural controversy.

It has been sneeringly asked what has this Administration done? It has forever abolished slavery in the District of Columbia, and by the *Act of Emancipation* tolled its death knell in all the Southern States. Out of fifteen States and territories originally held by the rebels, they now hold but ten States in part.

The area of the original territory in square miles is.....	1,653,852
The territory in square miles now held by them is.....	342,668
The original amount of population was.....	12,121,294
The population now in rebellion is.....	4,453,232
Showing that we have recovered.....	7,638,062 of the population, and have reconquered 1,311,184 square miles of territory.

In the outset, the rebels had possession of the army, and had sent the navy to foreign seas, and had also *three-fourths* of the army officers, who

had all been educated at the *expense of the Government* they were in arms against. They had also stolen from the Government small arms and ordnance sufficient for an army of 150,000 men.

We therefore had an army to organize and educate in the art of war, and our Navy to enlarge to meet the exigencies arising. What have we done? We have manufactured over 1,000,000 stand of arms. We have built *sixty Iron Clads*, and over *one hundred and fifty* wooden war vessels! We have organized and disciplined the largest army the world ever saw! We have manufactured over *five thousand* pieces of field artillery, and over *two thousand* heavy guns, from a 10-pounder to the mammoth 15-inch guns, carrying projectiles a distance of five miles and more. We have brought the science of gunnery nearer to perfection than any other nation, and by the introduction of our Monitors compelled the respect of England and France, by revolutionizing Naval Warfare.

We have made strong Union States of Maryland and Kentucky! We have taken Western Virginia and HELD it! We have taken THIRTEEN of the most prominent rebel Forts and held them, besides numerous smaller ones! We have taken *sixteen* of their prominent cities, and HELD them? We have blockaded their entire seacoast so efficiently, that they now have but one port of entry, and can only enter and depart from that under cover of darkness. The OLD FLAG, banished from the seceded States upon the passage of the ordinance of secession, now floats over our armies in all of them!

We have cleared the Shenandoah Valley of Rebels, winning three brilliant victories, and now hold it!

Our armies under GRANT, SHERMAN, and SHERIDAN have been victorious in over forty battles Our Navy has won imperishable renown under FOOTE and FARRAGUT, and has to a great extent contributed to its support by the capture of over *one thousand* important prizes, valued at over $10,000,000. We have wrested from the rebel grasp, the Mississippi river, and kept it open! We have done more to extend the area of Freedom, and demonstrated more forcibly to the world the inherent energy of the American people, and their ability for *self-government*, than any administration since the existence of the Government!

We have filled our Treasury, and established a National currency, and yet, despite all obstacles, we have sustained our credit, without any foreign indebtedness. And in the face of all the facts above, there are those so false to truth and to their country, as to deliberately assert that this Administration has failed to show any evidence of progress.

In the discharge of official duty, Mr. Lincoln has ever acted fearlessly and honestly, and in his public intercourse with the people, has rendered freedom of access equal alike to the high and the low, and whatever errors may have arisen from lenity or forbearance, should be credited to the cause of humanity.

In a war of the magnitude of the present, where force of circumstances must govern the controlling Power, with no precedents for guidance, some errors must unavoidably arise, but no candid man will venture to doubt the purity of Mr. Lincoln's motives, or assert that he has been inconsistent, or has willingly committed or allowed acts of injustice to any.

In conclusion, we would say to every voter, and lover of his country, that in judging of the future by the past, we ought as Americans to feel every confidence in the Patriotism and Political Integrity of *Abraham Lincoln* and have an abiding faith, that, profiting by his knowledge and experience in our country's adversity, he will, if elected, faithfully administer to her necessities, and successfully pilot her on a voyage of prosperity.

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